

a We claim  
claims

- Sub-A5  
21.452
1. A sausage-producing device (1) comprising a stuffing unit (16) with a charging pipe (3) for stuffing sausage skins, and a length-dimensioning unit (5) for controlled removal of the stuffed sausage skins, **characterized in that** a clip module (8) for closing the stuffed sausage skins is arranged directly after said length-dimensioning unit (5) when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins.
  2. A device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the charging pipe (3) has associated therewith a twist-off unit (4).
  3. A device according to claims 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) includes a cutter.
  4. A device according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) includes a loop former.
  5. A device according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that**, when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins, the clip module (8) is followed by a transfer unit (12).
  6. A device according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that**, when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins, the transfer unit (12) is followed by a conveyor belt.
  7. A device according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that**, when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins, the transfer unit (12) is followed by a suspension unit (10).
  8. A device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the stuffing unit (16), the length-dimensioning unit (5) and the clip module (8) are connected via control lines to a control means (7) for the sausage-producing device so that the functions of the length-dimensioning unit (5) and of the clip module (8) can be synchronized.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

9. A device according to claims 1, 5 and 8, **characterized in that** the transfer unit (12) as well as the conveyor belt or the suspension unit are connected to the control means for the sausage-producing device via control lines so as to synchronize the functions of these components with the functions of the stuffing unit (16), of the length-dimensioning unit (5) and of the clip module (8).

10. A method of producing sausages comprising the steps of stuffing sausage skins via a charging pipe (3) and transporting them away in a controlled manner via a length-dimensioning unit (5), **characterized in that** the stuffed sausage skins are closed by a clip module (8) directly after the length-dimensioning unit (5).

11. A method according to claim 10, **characterized in that** the sausage skins are twisted off after stuffing and before they are transported away via the length-dimensioning unit (5).

12. A method according to claim 10 or 11, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) is controlled via a control means (7) in such a way that the stuffed sausage skins are closed synchronously with the stuffing of the sausage skins.

13. A method according to one of the claims 10 to 12, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) closes the stuffed sausage skins at two juxtaposed points.

14. A method according to claim 13, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) cuts through the stuffed sausage skins between these two points.

15. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 14, **characterized in that** cutting through is effected after each n-th closure so as to obtain chains of sausages which comprise a specific number of sausages ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ).

16. A method according to one of the claims 10 to 15, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) closes the stuffed sausage skins twice at the twist-off point.

17. A method according to at least one of the claims 10 to 16, **characterized in that** the stuffed sausage skins, which have been closed by the clip module (8), are advanced to a transfer unit (12).

at least one of the following must take place after unit.

06/11/16

[illegible]